

A BIG DAY IN FLOYD.

SWANSON AND HEERMANS IN JOINT DISCUSSION.

LEE MOORE'S RETORT.

Explains Why He Will Not Support McKinley-Hairston Makes a Gallant Defence of Democracy-Other Political Meetings in Virginia.

FLOYD COURTHOUSE, VA., September 16.—(Special).—Yesterday was a big day in politics in Floyd. It was County Court day, and a big crowd was in attendance. Hon. Claude A. Swanson, the Democratic nominee, was on hand, and also Hon. H. H. Moore, the Republican candidate for the Fifth District. The Republicans had Heermans, of Montgomery county, here, and Mr. Lee Moore, of Christiansburg, the Commonwealth's Attorney of Montgomery, and a life-long Republican, but now an ardent free-silver advocate, was on hand.

The Democrats first proposed that Moore and Heermans have a joint discussion, but this was declined by the Republicans. Then they proposed that Swanson and Moore, on the one side, and Heermans and the Republican elector, who lives here, on the other, should engage in a joint debate. This proposition was also declined by the Republicans. Then they proposed that Moore and Heermans should have a joint discussion, but this was also declined by the Republicans. Then they proposed that Moore and Heermans should have a joint discussion, but this was also declined by the Republicans.

MR. HEERMANS'S STATISTICS. Mr. Heermans replied in a speech of one and a half hours, and much of it was read from manuscript, and much of it was taken up in reading documents. While the speaker received a good deal of applause, it was not so much as that which greeted Swanson, for the most part, came from a few men whose business it was plain to see was to support the speaker. Through his time, and he seemed glad when it was over.

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When Mr. Swanson closed Mr. Lee Moore, who had introduced Mr. Swanson, and in his remarks had defined his position on the money question, said that he had arrived at his conclusions after careful study and mature thought, and that he could not and would not support the Republican party in this campaign, mounted the stand. He again defended his position, and said that he was much more consistent than Mr. Heermans had been in his political career, showing that the latter had been almost everything, and had often bolted his party nominees.

The Republican then called for Mr. V. M. Sowler, who took the stand and spoke for a few minutes. The Democrats then shouted for Mr. Hairston, who responded in gallant style. A few loud-roared, bad-mannered Republicans tried their best to howl him down, but "Nick" was plucky to the last, and gave the howlers some centre stage. Republican light, then took the stand, and when he got up the crowd began to disperse, and it was not long until his audience was very small, and he soon subsided.

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Up to this time the silver Democracy in this county has gained an average of two votes from the Republican party for every one gone over to McKinley, Patterson and Company, and if things go on this way a few more votes will be added. Buckner folks in King George will be a lone little family on election day.

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I shall not attempt even a synopsis of the four speeches; but will have to content myself with a few stray criticisms. Judge Fudge opened the discussion. His speech was well-timed, to the point, and was delivered in a forcible manner. He, like Judge Lewis, labored under the great disadvantage of being limited to a very short time.

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"This free distribution means something. It means that the corruption fund is at the back of it. Publishers are in the habit of giving working people free newspapers, and you mark it down as a fact that the gold-bugs are turning in the money for the free circulation of these gold-standard anti-Bryan newspapers." These remarks developed the fact that the "free" gold-standard papers were helping the silver cause, for it was understood that they were circulated here for a selfish purpose.

One prominent man said: "You just ought to have seen me dispose of a batch of gold-bug papers sent to me for distribution. I 'diced' them in a hurry—the whole batch went the same way in less than ten seconds." It may be added just in this connection that many of our postmasters who are merchants do not even so much as touch the gold-bug campaign papers, or wrapping paper. The people here do not relish these "campaign papers," and it is understood that postmasters have no legal right to distribute them, which comes to their offices unaddressed. It is also understood by some postmasters that post-offices should not be used for partisan purposes.

CAMPAIGN IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Joint Discussion at Wytheville—Judge Lewis and Mr. Rhea.

(Special).—Politically speaking, yesterday was a field-day for the voters of this county, especially those of the Bryan-Free-Silver "Household of Faith." Both parties had advertised extensively that they would have prominent speakers on hand, and, with all their might, that the voters come out and receive the panacea for all their ills, both real and imaginary.

The speakers "booked" came. They were Judge William F. Rhea, of Bristol; Judge George H. Fudge, of Marion; ex-Senator Judge H. H. Lewis, of Richmond; and Major A. H. Pettibone, of Tennessee. Judge Lewis and Major Pettibone arrived Monday; Judges Rhea and Fudge this morning, on the first train from the West.

As soon as the Democrats learned that their speakers had arrived they became eager for the fray of a joint discussion, and one was arranged for.